against the persons violating the En. vironment (Protection) Act, 1896 during the last three years; and

(b) what is the State-wise number of cases in which convictions have been awarded alongwith the nature .thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOEBSTS (SHRl KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) During this period prosecutions were launched against 8 industries which did not comply with the directions issued by the Central Government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Out of these 4 cases related to Uttar Pradesh and 4 cases to West Bengal. No conviction has been awarded so far as all the cases are pending in the Court.

Effects of Aircraft Exhaust on Ozone Layer

495. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENIVRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether Government's "attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Times of India dated the 5th November to the effect that the aircraft fume is affecting the Ozone Layer if so what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE O'F THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Yes, Sir. It is well-known to the scientific community in India and abroad that aircraft fumes are likely to affect the ozone layer and the atmoshepre in general. There are indications that the exhaust from supersonic aircrafts which cruise at stratospheric levels could deplete the ozone layer in the stratosphere. However, aircraft flights over India or by Indian aircrafts are 'few compared to those in European and North American countries and no immediate action by India is required.

Pollution by Public Sector Units in the Capital

496. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Min ister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FOR ESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some public Sector Units in the Capital the not following the environmental laws by not installing pollution control devices in their units; and

(b) if so, what are the names of these units and action taken against the Public Sector Undertakings for not following the statutory provisions'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE O'F THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) M/s. Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited is the Public Sector Unit which has not installed adequate pollution control devices. The" unit has been directed by Delhi Administration to install install these by 31st December, 1991. M/s. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. is currently not complying with the rules for hazardous waste disposal and have been directed to do so.

Deforestation in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh

497. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister o'f ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale deforestation took place in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal during 1990;

(b) if so, what is the number of trees felled and the area laid bare during the year; and

(c) what are the steps taken by the Central Government to ensure that maximum number of trees are planted under the compulsory affore.

station programmes in compliance with the Forest Conservation Law and what is the number of trees plan. ted so far in each of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No large scale deforestation has taken place in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal during 1990. The Central Government have accorded approval for diversion of 1,19,285,5 ha. of forest land in Madhya Pradesh and 1087 ha. of forest land in Himachal Pradesh during 1990 for non -forestry purposes.

(c) Raising of compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest and approved for diversion is one of the main conditions stipulated under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In case, non.forest land is not available for compensatory afforestation, it is required to be done in degraded forests over double the area diverted. Till October, 1991 compensatory afforestation has been raised over 36,016 ha. in Madhya Pradesh and 2142 ha. in Himachal. Pradesh.

Survey of forest area

498. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST?; be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the satellite (survey using remote sensing device has estimated the actual forest cover at 64 million hectares against the recorded forest area *Of* 75 million hectares indicating a loss of forest over of 11 to 12 million hectares;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the Forest Conservation Act of 1990 more effective with a view to arrest the decline in the forest cover; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH), (a) The recorded forest area of 75 million ha. includes areas like snow covered mountains, alpine pastures, rocky out crops, water bodies and deserts as well. However, the assessment made of actual forest cover using satellite imageries as 64.01 million ha. represents only actual tree cover arid does not include the features mentioned above.

(b) and (c) The Government have taken the following steps:—

1. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

2. A Centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.

3. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuel wood in domestic and commercial sectors.

4. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging railway sleepers building construction, furniture etc.

5. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.

6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.

7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

8. Guideline have been issued to State/Union Territory Governments from time to time for protection of forest. Some of these guidelines are as follows:—

(i) To avoid felling gof natural forests and where such felling